

*CIA Director George
Overseas Press
Club*

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Misdirected Recruiting

GEORGE BUSH, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, gave a graphic demonstration recently that it may be easier to teach an old dog new tricks than to change the attitudes of this nation's spy organization.

In a speech to the Overseas Press Club, Bush "invited" American journalists working in foreign countries to help out the CIA.

"We want your cooperation on a voluntary basis," Bush said, promising anonymity to any reporter doubling as a spy.

Bush also said the CIA would be happy to have the assistance of any businessman, professor or tourist traveling abroad.

WHAT BUSH'S invitation does, in effect, is make every journalist, professor, businessman and tourist suspect when they are visiting a foreign

country. How will their hosts know if they are legitimately what they say they are or if they are snooping into the foreign nation's affairs for the CIA?

The result is likely to make it harder than ever for reporters to do their job abroad. To report on life in foreign nations requires building the same relationships of confidence and trust in sources that reporters in this country use. Who will want to trust a potential CIA informant?

Similarly, if the subjects of professors' research feel they are being spied upon, they are not as likely to want to cooperate.

The CIA has a vast budget and staff. We would just as soon it went out of business, but if it is going to continue to exist, it should use its own people to do its spying, not try to subvert the work of people in other professions.